

Grace & Flavour Sustainable & Ecology Report Update - 2020

		What else could we do?
Energy, water & natural resources efficient		
Rainwater harvesting	Off poly tunnels, greenhouses and a large water butt off the Potting Shed Volume too large from the potting shed for a larger container Keeping the water too long might lead to water-borne issues Can't use for seedlings	Top up the pond from the water butts
Water storage using bins	This was a partial success but relied on manual hand watering which became too much and hoses to be used as more of the garden was cultivated. Dip tanks have been purchased and are easier to use.	
Potting Shed	Completed in 2018 Funding was secured from S106 funds from GBC Para 2 successful Construction was where possible sustainable such as 2nd hand kitchen, recycled bricks and donated furniture and vegetable racks. One water butt is capturing rainwater from the roof. No lighting is possible as no electricity connects the site but the roof includes natural lighting every 3 or 4 panels. A woodburning stove has been discussed at committee meetings and not felt necessary. Safety and fire risks were also considered.	
Minimising Waste	Compost bins are in use. Composting procedures have been improved over the last 10 years with a purpose built set of bins in constant use. Continual reuse, cleaning and storage of the netting and fleece. For vegetable sales, members bring in plastic bags, paper bags, newspaper bags Weeds Partially rotted weed waste re-used to create terrace	Extending the current set of compost bins.
Toilet	Toilet is compostable and liquid waste is poured on the compost bins Actual waste leaving the garden is kept to a minimum; with no need for use of the council refuse collection from the garden. Purchasing better quality equipment which has a longer shelf life, e.g. modular seed trays. Instead of growing of our own plant supports the members have supported the Surrey Wildlife Trust in coppicing locals woods due to the quantity of supports needed for such large garden.	
Wish List	The wish list has been successful and is still used on the website. As well as tools etc. plus several greenhouses and a fruit cage have been donated.	
Pollution	The garden is now fully chemical free and do not apply chemical fertilisers or pesticides.	

		What else could we do?
Nature	<p>A wildlife manager set-up many wildlife projects, including a pond, bird boxes and later a large area outside of the wall for small mammals, a bug hotel, birds, log piles, reptile covers etc. Any felled wood is re-used.</p> <p>The wildlife manager gave regular presentations at the AGM to report wildlife seen in the garden and there are regular reports on the website and newsletters.</p> <p>The woodland Trust have provided several hedges and natural fencing.</p> <p>A number of new trees such as Alders and Oaks have also been planted. A series of heritage fruit trees have also been reintroduced which were varieties local to Surrey.</p> <p>Other flowers and herbs including lavender plants are being grown within the vegetable area to attract insect life.</p> <p>A wildlife corridor has been partially implemented between the Garden and Allotments.</p> <p>Trees are well maintained with Limes pollarded every 2 to 3 years and dead trees surveyed and have been felled when unsafe. Wood has been used for fuel, and bodging.</p>	<p>A Beehive could be considered for the future.</p> <p>Better management of the wildlife corridor to be more effective.</p> <p>An annual bird watch survey has been proposed to be held with records kept for comparison.</p>
Social Needs	<p>The garden attracts a number of requests from local schools for children to work on the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.</p> <p>Paths have been adapted for Wheelchairs as well as raised beds built and the next door Care Home visit occasionally.</p> <p>Bodging</p> <p>Apple Pressing</p>	
Enhanced Space	<p>The whole garden has been carefully restored to be not only a fully functioning kitchen garden selling produce to members and local visitors but also to be inviting to attract members and be an improvement on the neglected nature of the last 40 years.</p> <p>The Tithe has continued to be successful and distributed each year to locals who have difficulty accessing fresh vegetables.</p> <p>Produce has also been sold to local members, local shops and the landlord, the National Trust at Polsden Lacy over the last 10 years.</p> <p>G&F continues to be open to the local community and villages.</p> <p>Members of the garden attend and often sell produce at local Horticultural events, the local garden centre and village fetes. We also regularly contribute articles to local newsletters to promote the garden and the community aspects.</p> <p>The wall, which has fallen in places and is unstable has received funding and is in the process of being stabilised with supports to ensure it remains in place.</p>	<p>Investigate other charitable organisations and food banks who would accept excess produce.</p>
Promote economic success	<p>The company behind Grace & Flavour has maintained a steady income each year based on local member sales.</p>	
Value unpaid Work	<p>Good community is visible with 40+ Active members with 20-30 attending on a Saturday to work in the garden. Membership remains steady around 200 members.</p> <p>Members continue to walk and cycle to the garden rather than using cars.</p> <p>A cycle rack is provided</p>	<p>The cycle rack is currently behind the wall and unused, consider better placement.</p>